

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5 and 16-32 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 6-15 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1-5 and the title are amended, and new claims 16-32 are added. Support for the new claims can be found in the specification including the original claims and the figures, for example, see Figures 2F and 3B. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 3-5 define patentable subject matter. However, for at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

I. 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Coll et al (US Patent 6,100,628, hereinafter "Coll"). Claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, therefore the rejection of claims 6 and 7 is moot. Because Coll fails to disclose or suggest all the features of the remaining claim, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that subject matter indicated to be allowable in claim 3 is incorporated into claim 1 for the sole purpose of expediting prosecution. Therefore, claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

For at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Coll. Because Coll fails to disclose or suggest all the features of the claim, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, as discussed above. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully required.

III. Objections

The Office Action objects to the title and claims 1-7 for various informalities. Claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, therefore the objection to claims 6 and 7 is moot. Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments obviate the grounds for the objections. Withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

IV. New Claims 16-32

By this Amendment, claims 16-32 are added to the Application. Claims 16-32 broadly recite features of the preferred embodiment(s). It is respectfully submitted that the new claims

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are allowable over the references of record for the reasons discussed above in connection with claims 1-7.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Laura L. Lee, at the telephone number listed below. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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